

**House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
Water Resources Development Act  
High Priority Projects Request Form**

**Office of Congresswoman Jackie Speier (CA-12)  
211 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Tel.: 202-225-3531  
Fax: 202-226-4183**

**DEADLINE: Tuesday, December 1, 2009 @ 9:00 p.m. (P.S.T.)**

*(Return via email to [Cookab.Hashemi@mail.house.gov](mailto:Cookab.Hashemi@mail.house.gov) AND [Brian.Perkins@mail.house.gov](mailto:Brian.Perkins@mail.house.gov).)*

Please include your full contact information in all correspondence with the Congresswoman's office.

Organizations must provide complete responses to all questions on this form. Incomplete proposals will NOT be considered. Organizations must adhere to word limitations for each question.

**Date submitted:** December 1, 2009

**Project name:** Sharp Park Seawall Project

**Local contact(s)** *(Please provide full contact information, including email addresses and any relevant phone extensions, and indicate if there is a separate D.C. contact.):*

Dawn Kamalanathan, Planning Director  
San Francisco Recreation & Park Department  
McLaren Lodge Annex  
501 Stanyan St.  
San Francisco, CA 94122  
415 831 2743  
[dawn.kamalanathan@sfgov.org](mailto:dawn.kamalanathan@sfgov.org)

**QUESTION #1: Member's Office:**

Rep. Jackie Speier, CA – 12

**QUESTION #2: Staff Contact(s):**

Cookab Hashemi, Chief of Staff

W: 202-225-3531

Email: [Cookab.Hashemi@mail.house.gov](mailto:Cookab.Hashemi@mail.house.gov)

Brian Perkins, Senior Policy Advisor

W: 650-342-0300

Email: [Brian.Perkins@mail.house.gov](mailto:Brian.Perkins@mail.house.gov)

**QUESTION #3: Corps Information:**

Please enter the contact information pertaining to the Corps District responsible for the project, as well as contact information for the Corps employee most familiar with the project.

*Corps District* San Francisco

*Corps Contact:* Tom Kendell

*Corps Phone number:* (415) 503 6822

*Corps Contact Email address:* tom.kendell@us.army.mil

**QUESTION #4: Project Location:**

Please enter the city and counties in which the project will be carried out. If there are multiple cities and counties in which this project will be carried out, please enter them below.

*City:* Pacifica

*County:* San Mateo

*State:* California

**QUESTION #5: Non-federal Sponsor:**

Please enter all contact information for the non-federal sponsor of the project.

*Name of Non-federal sponsor:*

City and County of San Francisco

Recreation and Park Department

*Name of Non-federal sponsor staff contact:* Dawn Kamalanathan, Planning Director

*Non-federal sponsor phone number:* 415 831 2743

*Non-federal sponsor email address:* dawn.kamalanathan@sfgov.org

*Non-federal sponsor address:*

McLaren Lodge Annex  
501 Stanyan St.  
San Francisco, CA 94122

**QUESTION #6: Project details/purposes:** (*You may choose more than one. Please highlight section below.*)

*Project purpose:*

- Navigation
- Environmental Protection and Restoration
- Flood damage reduction
- Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction
- Shoreline Protection
- Hydroelectric Power
- Water Supply
- Recreation
- Aquatic Plant Control
- Environmental Infrastructure

*Project description: (150 words or less)*

The Sharp Park Seawall Project will entail a condition study of the existing seawall, a 3,000' long barrier along the Pacifica coastline that ranges from 23' – 27' high. The existing seawall protects the habitat of the federally protected San Francisco Garter Snake (SFGS) and the federally threatened California Red Legged Frog (CRLF) as well as residences within Pacifica. A breach of the seawall – as happened in 1983 – would significantly damage residences and destroy the upland freshwater wetlands by drastically increasing salinity. This salinity increase would be devastating to the habitat of both the SFGS and the CRLF.

*Authorization Amount requested:* \$500,000

**QUESTION 7:        Project timeline**

*Please provide project timeline. (150 words or less).*

The San Francisco Recreation & Park Department (SFRPD) is currently prepared to undertake or assist in a seawall condition study. Immediately following the completion of the study, SFRPD is prepared to begin work on the seawall itself. Work on habitat restoration upland of the seawall is expected to begin in two years, and SFRPD would ideally engage in seawall rehabilitation at roughly the same time to ensure protection of the newly restored wetlands.

**QUESTION #8:        Describe the benefits of this project to the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.**  
*(500 words or less.)*

The Sharp Park Sea Wall Project Study will benefit constituents of District 12 in the following ways.

First, the project will protect real estate. The natural coastal patterns have been eroding the beach line at Sharp Park Golf Course. Between 1931 and 1984, approximately 16 acres of beachfront property have been lost due to coastal erosion and storm waves. The Sharp Park Seawall Study will determine the best way to reduce erosion and protect real estate.

Second, a better understanding of the threat of erosion on this site will reduce storm damage. Previous storms have completely destroyed portions of the seawall by over-topping the structure. Combined with storm water run-off, this has caused severe flooding of Sharp Park and adjacent developed areas. The seawall study will evaluate the best way to address the wave over-topping and how to best address the seawall's on-going maintenance required to keep it functioning properly.

Third, the project will protect golf course revenues. Currently, Sharp Park Golf Course generates an average of \$1,228,160 in revenues annually, money that drops off precipitously when the Golf Course is closed due to flooding. Preventing seawater over-topping the embankment will reduce golf course flooding, maintain revenues, and continue to provide recreational opportunities to the public.

Fourth, preserving the seawall will maintain valuable San Francisco Garter Snake (SFGS) habitat. In 1985, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended that the habitat for the SFGS at Laguna Salada (in Sharp Park) be secured and managed. If the lagoon is allowed to be inundated with sea water due to a breach or if the protection against erosion processes are not provided, then the existing SFGS habitat would be at great risk.

Fifth and finally, the project would prevent the loss of federally endangered and threatened species. If the seawall were to be breached with sea water, the increase in salinity would kill the California Red legged Frog (CRLF), the primary food source for the SFGS. Sharp Park contains one of only six recognized populations of the SFGS, which is often called the most endangered snake in North America. The CRLF can survive in water registering five parts per thousand (ppt) of sodium chloride (salt) without apparent ill effects. However, at six to seven ppt, the species exhibits poor growth. One study indicates that CRLF tadpoles die within three days of exposure to water of this salinity. After the last breach in the seawall, a decline in CRLF and SFGS was observed.

The authorization of Water Resource and Development Funds to conduct a study of the existing sea wall will allow the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department to determine the best method to improve the effectiveness of the seawall in conjunction with the restoration and enhancement of the Sharp Park Laguna Salada and Horse Stable Pond project, will allow the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department to protect critical habitat, reduce financial losses due to storm and flood damage and continue to offer on-going recreational opportunities to the public.

**QUESTION #9: Previous Federal Funding for project**

*Has this project received previous funding from the federal government? Yes or No? NO.*

*If yes, please list amount and source?*

**QUESTION #10: Miscellaneous Information:**

*Are there multiple Members of Congress requesting this project? Yes or No? NO.*

*If yes, please list other Members and Congressional Districts:*

**Letter or Support from Non-federal sponsor. Attach a letter of support from the non-federal sponsor. Must be in PDF format.**

**Office of the Mayor**  
City & County of San Francisco



**Gavin Newsom**

December 1, 2009

The Honorable Jackie Speier  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Speier,

On behalf of the City and County of San Francisco, thank you for the opportunity to submit project requests for the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). WRDA is a major federal funding tool available to assist San Francisco with its attempts to reconstruct the Sharp Park Seawall, a structure critical to our efforts to protect the homes of Pacifica and to rehabilitate the habitat of the federally endangered San Francisco Garter Snake and the federally threatened California Red-Legged Frog. The City's proposed authorization would be a lifeline to these animals, their habitat and to the community. It is a project of extraordinary value to the City, the region, and the nation.

I respectfully request your support for the City's request for WRDA funding authorization for flood damage reduction. Over the past several months, the City has worked with a team of consultants and experts on the San Francisco Garter Snake to develop plans for restoring the species at Sharp Park. Our project calls for a habitat rehabilitation effort, but without restoring the existing damaged seawall, all this work would be for naught.

The City's request of \$500,000 would allow us to conduct a thorough study of the seawall and create a course of action for its full repair, thus protecting the park, the revitalized habitat, and the adjacent homes from flood damage and saltwater inundation. The seawall was last breached in 1983, causing serious damage to the community.

Thank you for strong consideration of this request, for your long-standing commitment to the City and County of San Francisco, and for your leadership in securing these resources to preserve our wildlife and our ecosystem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom  
Mayor